

CELEBRATING THE 221ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1356, Celebrating the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America and honoring the efforts of the 42 delegates who attended the majority of the Constitutional Convention meetings and the 39 signers, introduced by my distinguished colleague Representative GARRETT. This legislation acknowledges the significance of the ideals established by the Constitution, including the principle of a limited federal government with a system of checks and balances, and recognizes the Constitution as the source responsible for our nation's ability to withstand calamity and preserve stability.

Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.—Abraham Lincoln

BACKGROUND

The members of the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Constitutional Convention convened in response to dissatisfaction with the Articles of Confederation and the need for a strong centralized government. After 4 months of secret debate and many compromises, the proposed Constitution was submitted to the States for approval. Although the vote was close in some States, the Constitution was eventually ratified and the new Federal government came into existence in 1789. The Constitution established the U.S. government as it exists today.

The Constitution represents the founding of our government as we know it today. For 221 years, the United States has fought to maintain a democracy that equally represents everyone that resides within the boundaries of our Nation. Without this sacred document, the rules that govern our Nation would be obsolete. The concrete separation that ensures the stability of our government and thus, our Nation is due to the Constitution Convention that we recognize today.

TEXAS

Texas became a member of this great Nation in 1845. Since that moment, Texas has been proud to be a member of such a great Nation like the United States, and as a Representative for the 18th district of Texas I am proud to represent my constituents within the Legislative Branch of this government. It takes the help of every branch of governments at a number of different levels to accomplish all the things our government is capable of, and today, I am proud to be a Representative of Texas and the United States. It is a privilege to represent the people of my State and my district in Washington, DC.

CONCLUSION

I believe we must pass this resolution to demonstrate how proud we are to celebrate the success of our founding fathers and to ac-

knowledge those who put our system of government on paper allowing the United States to become such a renowned Nation. This resolution encourages us to remember those intelligent men who put their hearts and souls into developing a system give equality and representation to all people, and as we stand together now, after 221 years, must recognize their important part in developing the Constitution that governs our great Nation today.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF BALA #1

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop Bala #1 as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary.

Bala #1 is based in Bala Cynwd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The Troop is recognized as the first organized, oldest and continuously operating Boy Scout Troop in the United States, according to the Lower Merion Historical Society.

Founded in 1908, the Troop has enriched the lives of boys and young men through activities geared toward building character, developing leadership skills and instilling a commitment to serving others.

During the past 100 years, Scout leaders have mentored and trained more than 1,000 Scouts, including several Eagle Scouts and the first All-Eagle Scout Patrol in the United States.

The Troop owes much of its success during the past century to dedicated volunteers and Troop alumni such as Scoutmaster Bill Sawyer and Committee Chairman Al Vitiello, who graciously commit countless hours and endless effort to the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Boy Scout Troop Bala #1 on reaching a very special milestone and offering best wishes for continued success in mentoring generations of local youth and building a stronger community and nation.

THE DAILY 45: DENVER DAD KILLS AUTISTIC SON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. This year, on September 11, while the Nation memorialized more than 3,200 men, women, and children killed by terrorists; in the Denver town of Grand Junction, another child's life was senselessly taken, in part, because of the easy access to a gun.

Last Thursday night, while 13-year-old Jacob Grabe was sleeping, police report that his father, Allen Grabe, held a loaded gun to his son's face and discharged several rounds into his head, killing him instantly. Jacob was described by his mother as having a mild form of the neurological disorder similar to autism

called Asperger's syndrome. Jacob's mother told police that her husband described his action this way, "I had to kill him because you were ruining him." My heart goes out to Mrs. Grabe and this community on this tragic loss.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING MOSES-LUDINGTON HOSPITAL

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Moses-Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga, New York. The hospital was founded in 1908 by Horace Moses, a businessman and Ticonderoga native, to provide medical care to the people of Ticonderoga and its surrounding area. The hospital began with 15 beds and has since grown to encompass a 24 hour emergency room, outpatient surgery, radiology, and dental services. It has the distinction of being the most remote Critical Access Hospital in New York State, providing valuable life-saving treatment to many of my rural constituents in Essex, Warren, and Hamilton Counties.

Although it remains a small rural hospital, Moses-Ludington Hospital employs 300 upstate New Yorkers and houses specialists in Cardiology, Dermatology, EMG testing, Hematology, Neurology, Oncology, Orthopedic Surgery, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Podiatry, Sleep Apnea, and Sports Medicine. In addition, Moses-Ludington provides long-term and temporary rehabilitative care through Heritage Commons Residential Healthcare, housing for seniors and persons with disabilities who qualify for Federal housing assistance through Lord Howe Estates, and adult care through the Moses-Ludington Adult Care facility.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations on behalf of the people of New York's 20th Congressional District to the entire Moses-Ludington community on this milestone. I wish them continued success as they work to provide high quality healthcare to the rural communities of upstate New York.

NATIONAL CAPITAL SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6842) to require the District of Columbia to revise its laws regarding the use and possession of firearms as necessary to comply with the requirements of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, in a manner that protects the security interests of the Federal Government and the people who work in, reside in, or visit the District of Columbia and does not undermine